

POPULATION : RHODE ISLAND

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS, BY COUNTIES AND MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS

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TOTAL POPULATION, INCREASE, AND DISTRIBUTION.

Population of the state.—Rhode Island was one of the original thirteen states. According to the Fourteenth Census, taken as of January 1, 1920, its population is 604,397, which represents an increase of 61,787, or 11.4 per cent, over the population in 1910. During the same period the population of the United States increased 14.9 per cent. The following summary shows the population of Rhode Island from 1790, the first Federal census, to 1920, inclusive, together with the number and per cent of increase in each decade, in comparison with the per cent of increase for the United States as a whole.

POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND: 1790 TO 1920.

CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		Per cent of increase for the United States.
		Number.	Per cent.	
1920.....	604,397	61,787	11.4	14.9
1910.....	542,610	114,054	26.6	21.0
1900.....	428,556	83,050	24.0	20.7
1890.....	345,506	68,975	24.9	25.5
1880.....	276,531	59,178	27.2	30.1
1870.....	217,353	42,733	24.5	22.6
1860.....	174,620	27,075	18.4	35.6
1850.....	147,545	35,715	35.6	35.9
1840.....	108,830	11,631	12.0	32.7
1830.....	97,199	14,140	17.0	33.5
1820.....	83,059	6,123	8.0	33.1
1810.....	76,931	7,809	11.3	36.4
1800.....	69,122	297	0.4	35.1
1790.....	68,825			

Counties.—Rhode Island has 5 counties, 4 of which increased in population during the last decade, but the decrease in the remaining county was less than one-tenth of 1 per cent (see Table 1). There have been no changes in county boundaries since 1850 except those involved in the straightening of certain boundary lines.

Density of population.—The total land area of the state in 1920 is 1,067 square miles and the average number of persons to the square mile is 566.4 (see Table 1); in 1910 and 1900 the averages were 508.5 and 401.6, respectively.

Minor civil divisions.—The political divisions into which counties are subdivided are collectively termed "minor civil divisions." In Rhode Island the primary division of the county is the town or city, and in 1920 these number 33 and 6, respectively (see Table 2). Villages are not incorporated as such in this state.

Cities.—Of the 6 cities of Rhode Island, all but 1 (Central Falls) have a population over 25,000 in 1920, Providence, the largest, having 237,595 inhabitants. The next largest city is Pawtucket, with 64,248, the remaining cities having more than 25,000 but less than 50,000 inhabitants. (See Tables 3 and 4.)

POPULATION—RHODE ISLAND.

The following summary shows the population of the cities of Rhode Island at each census for which figures are available, together with the increase during each decade.

POPULATION OF PRINCIPAL CITIES FROM EARLIEST CENSUS TO 1920.

[A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.]

CITY AND CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		CITY AND CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.		CITY AND CENSUS YEAR.	Population.	INCREASE OVER PRECEDING CENSUS.	
		Number.	Per cent.			Number.	Per cent.			Number.	Per cent.
Central Falls:				Newport—Continued.				Providence:			
1920.....	24,174	1,420	6.2	1890.....	19,457	3,764	24.0	1920.....	237,595	13,269	5.6
1910.....	22,754	4,587	25.2	1880.....	15,693	3,172	25.3	1910.....	224,326	48,729	27.8
1900.....	18,167			1870.....	12,521	2,013	19.2	1900.....	175,597	43,451	27.8
Cranston:				1860.....	10,508	945	9.0	1890.....	132,146	27,289	26.0
1920.....	29,407	8,300	39.3	1850.....	9,563	1,230	14.8	1880.....	104,857	35,953	32.2
1910.....	21,107	7,764	58.2	1840.....	8,333	393	4.0	1870.....	68,904	18,238	36.0
1900.....	13,343	5,244	64.7	1830.....	8,010	691	9.4	1860.....	50,666	9,153	22.0
1890.....	8,099	2,159	36.3	1820.....	7,319	—588	—7.4	1850.....	41,513	18,342	79.2
1880.....	5,940	1,118	23.2	1810.....	7,907	1,168	17.3	1840.....	23,171	6,338	43.1
1870.....	4,822	—2,678	—55.7	1800.....	6,739	23	0.3	1830.....	16,833	5,066	43.1
1860.....	7,500	3,189	74.0	1790.....	6,716			1820.....	11,767	1,696	16.8
1850.....	4,311	1,409	48.6	Pawtucket:				1810.....	10,071	2,457	32.3
1840.....	2,902	249	9.4	1920.....	64,248	12,626	24.5	1800.....	7,614	1,234	19.3
1830.....	2,653	379	16.7	1910.....	51,622	12,391	31.6	Woonsocket:			
1820.....	2,274	113	5.2	1900.....	39,231	11,598	42.0	1920.....	43,496	5,371	14.1
1810.....	2,161	517	31.4	1890.....	27,633	8,803	45.2	1910.....	38,125	9,021	35.2
1800.....	1,644	—233	—12.4	1880.....	19,030	12,411	187.5	1900.....	28,204	7,374	35.4
1790.....	1,877			1870.....	6,619	2,419	57.6	1890.....	20,830	4,780	29.8
Newport:				1860.....	4,200	447	11.9	1880.....	16,050	4,523	39.2
1920.....	39,255	3,106	11.4	1850.....	3,753	1,569	71.8	1870.....	11,527		
1910.....	27,149	4,708	21.0	1840.....	2,184	725	49.7				
1900.....	22,441	2,984	15.3	1830.....	1,459						

Urban and rural population.—The Census Bureau defines urban population as that residing in cities and other incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more. As it is not the practice in Rhode Island, as in nearly all the other states, to have municipal incorporations, such as villages, within the limits of town, and as no town becomes a city until its population is greatly in excess of 2,500, it has been necessary to include in the urban territory not only the population of cities but that of all towns having over 2,500 inhabitants. The result is that the "urban area" in Rhode Island includes some population which in other states would be segregated as "rural," but on account of the density of population of the state as a whole, there is no reason to suppose

that the proportion of urban population is greatly overstated. Urban population in Rhode Island being thus defined, the rural population, therefore, consists of the population located in towns having less than 2,500 inhabitants.

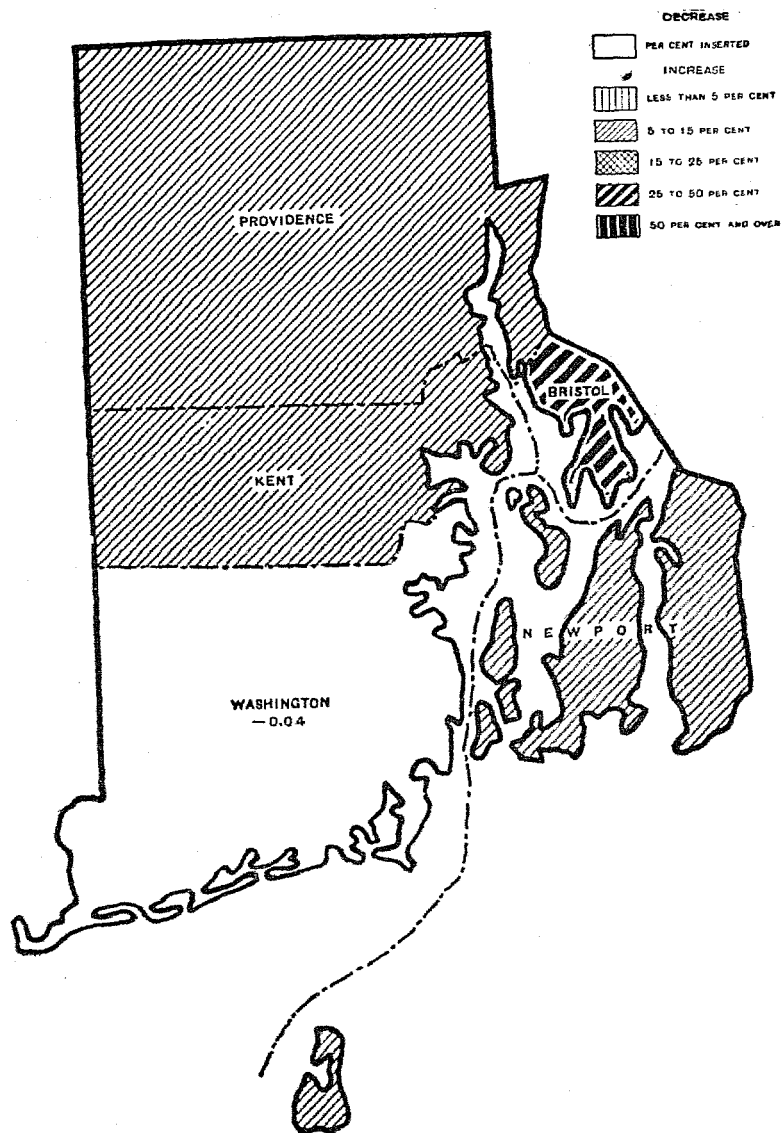
The following summary presents the urban and rural population of the state distributed among cities and towns, grouped according to specified limits of population at the last three censuses. The classification is based upon the population of each place as it existed at each census. The proportion of the population of Rhode Island living in cities and towns of 2,500 or more at the three census periods was 97.5, 96.7, and 95.1, respectively, the proportion showing a slight increase in each decade.

URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION: 1920, 1910, AND 1900.

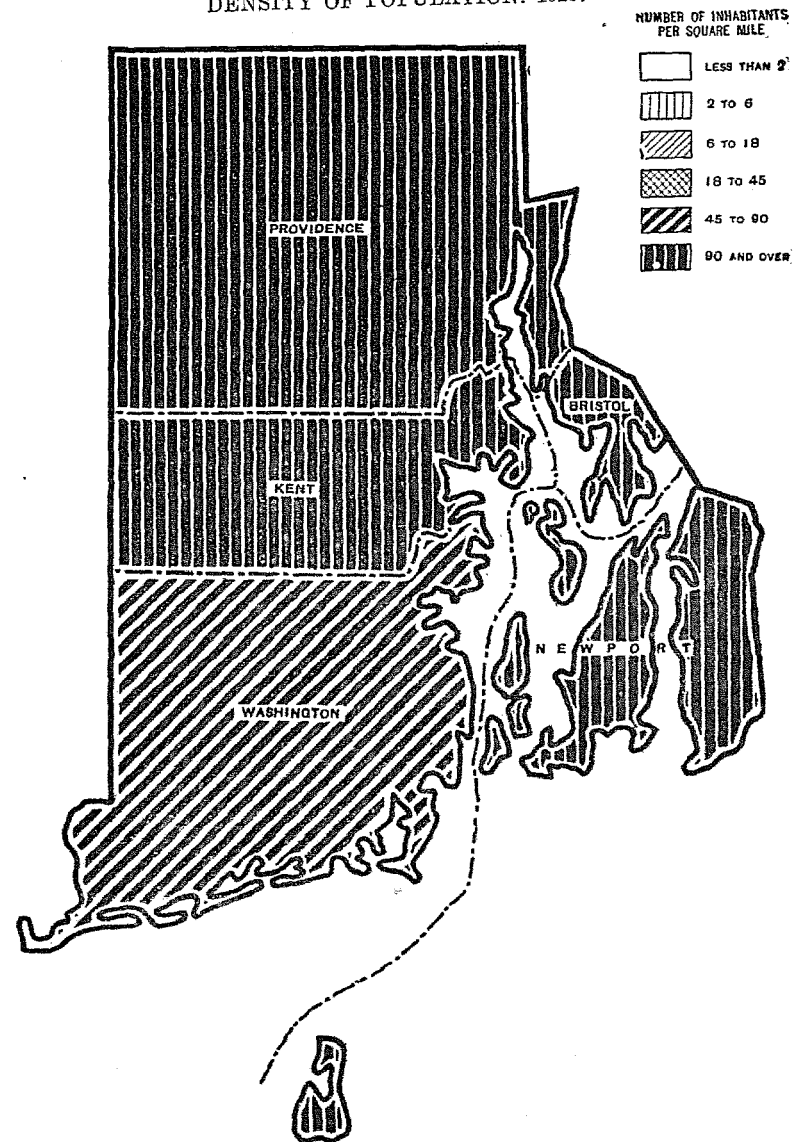
CLASS OF PLACES.	1920		1910		1900		PER CENT OF TOTAL POPULATION.		
	Number of places.	Population.	Number of places.	Population.	Number of places.	Population.	1920	1910	1900
Total population.....	39	604,397	38	542,610	38	428,556	100.0	100.0	100.0
Urban territory	27	539,180	25	524,654	23	407,647	97.5	96.7	95.1
Cities and towns of—									
100,000 inhabitants or more.....	1	237,595	1	224,326	1	175,597	39.3	41.3	41.0
50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants.....	1	64,248	1	51,622			10.6	9.5	
25,000 to 50,000 inhabitants.....	3	103,158	3	91,003	2	67,435	17.1	16.0	15.7
10,000 to 25,000 inhabitants.....	6	96,361	4	89,776	5	87,405	15.9	12.9	20.4
5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants.....	8	61,345	9	63,915	7	49,008	10.1	11.8	11.4
2,500 to 5,000 inhabitants.....	8	20,473	7	23,112	8	28,202	4.4	4.3	6.6
Rural territory (towns of less than 2,500 inhabitants)...	12	15,217	13	17,956	15	20,909	2.5	3.3	4.9

INCREASE AND DENSITY OF POPULATION OF RHODE ISLAND, BY COUNTIES.

INCREASE OF POPULATION: 1910-1920.



DENSITY OF POPULATION: 1920.



POPULATION—RHODE ISLAND.

TABLE 1.—AREA AND POPULATION OF COUNTIES: 1850 TO 1920.

COUNTY.	Land area in square miles: 1920.	POPULATION.									Per cent of increase.		
		1920		1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1850	1910 to 1920.	1900 to 1910.	1890 to 1900.
		Total.	Per square mile.										
Rhode Island.....	1,067	604,397	566.4	542,610	428,556	345,506	276,531	217,353	174,620	147,545	11.4	26.6	24.0
Bristol.....	24	23,113	963.0	17,002	13,144	11,428	11,394	9,421	8,907	8,514	31.3	33.9	15.0
Kent.....	174	38,269	219.9	36,378	29,970	26,754	20,588	18,595	17,303	15,068	5.2	21.4	12.0
Newport.....	114	42,893	376.3	39,335	32,599	28,552	24,180	20,050	21,896	20,007	9.0	20.7	14.2
Providence.....	430	475,190	1,105.1	424,353	328,683	255,123	197,874	149,190	107,769	87,526	12.0	29.1	28.8
Washington.....	325	24,932	76.7	24,942	24,154	23,649	22,495	20,097	18,715	16,430	(1)	3.3	2.1

1 Decrease of less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

TABLE 2.—POPULATION OF COUNTIES BY MINOR CIVIL DIVISIONS: 1920, 1910, AND 1900.

[For changes in boundaries, etc., between 1910 and 1920, see footnotes; for those between 1900 and 1910, see Reports of the Thirteenth Census: 1910, Vol. III, Table 1, p. 618. For population of wards of cities, see Table 4.]

MINOR CIVIL DIVISION.	1920	1910	1900	MINOR CIVIL DIVISION.	1920	1910	1900
Bristol County.....	23,113	17,602	13,144	Providence County—Continued.			
Barrington town.....	3,897	2,452	1,135	Cranston city.....	29,407	21,107	13,343
Bristol town.....	11,375	8,565	6,901	Cumberland town.....	10,077	10,107	8,925
Warren town.....	7,841	6,585	5,108	East Providence town.....	21,793	15,808	12,138
Kent County.....	38,269	36,378	29,976	Foster town.....	905	1,124	1,151
Coventry town.....	5,670	5,848	5,279	Glocester town.....	1,389	1,404	1,402
East Greenwich town.....	3,290	3,420	2,775	Johnston town.....	6,855	5,935	4,305
Warwick town.....	13,481	26,629	21,316	Lincoln town.....	9,543	9,825	8,007
West Greenwich town.....	367	481	606	North Providence town.....	7,007	5,407	3,016
West Warwick town.....	15,461			North Smithfield town.....	3,200	2,699	2,422
Newport County.....	42,893	39,335	32,599	Pawtucket city.....	64,248	51,622	39,231
Jamestown town.....	1,633	1,175	1,091	Providence city.....	237,505	224,326	175,507
Little Compton town.....	1,389	1,276	1,132	Scituate town.....	3,006	3,493	3,361
Middletown town.....	2,094	1,708	1,457	Smithfield town.....	3,199	2,739	2,107
New Shoreham town (Block Island).....	1,038	1,314	1,396	Woonsocket city.....	43,496	38,125	28,204
Newport city.....	30,255	27,149	22,441	Washington County.....	24,932	24,942	24,154
Portsmouth town.....	2,590	2,681	2,105	Charlestown town.....	759	1,037	975
Tiverton town.....	3,894	4,032	2,977	Exeter town.....	1,033	778	841
Providence County.....	475,190	424,353	328,683	Hopkinton town.....	2,316	2,324	2,602
Burrillville town.....	8,606	7,878	6,317	Narragansett town.....	993	1,250	1,523
Central Falls city.....	24,174	22,754	18,167	North Kingstown town.....	3,397	4,048	4,194

1 West Warwick town organized from part of Warwick town since 1910.

2 Part of Johnston town annexed to Providence city since 1910.

TABLE 3.—POPULATION OF ALL CITIES, AND OF TOWNS HAVING, IN 1920, 2,500 INHABITANTS OR MORE: 1920, 1910, AND 1900.

CITY OR TOWN.	County.	1920	1910	1900	CITY OR TOWN.	County.	1920	1910	1900
CITIES.					TOWNS—Continued.				
Central Falls.....	Providence.....	24,174	22,754	18,167	Johnston ¹	Providence.....	6,855	5,935	4,305
Cranston.....	Providence.....	29,407	21,107	13,343	Lincoln.....	Providence.....	9,543	9,825	8,007
Newport.....	Newport.....	30,255	27,149	22,441	North Kingstown.....	Washington.....	3,397	4,048	4,194
Pawtucket.....	Providence.....	64,248	51,622	39,231	North Providence.....	Providence.....	7,007	5,407	3,016
Providence.....	Providence.....	237,505	224,326	175,507	North Smithfield.....	Providence.....	3,200	2,699	2,422
Woonsocket.....	Providence.....	43,496	38,125	28,204	Portsmouth.....	Newport.....	2,590	2,681	2,105
TOWNS.					Scituate.....	Providence.....	3,006	3,493	3,361
Barrington.....	Bristol.....	3,897	2,452	1,135	Smithfield.....	Providence.....	3,199	2,739	2,107
Bristol.....	Bristol.....	11,375	8,565	6,901	South Kingstown.....	Washington.....	5,181	5,176	4,972
Burrillville.....	Providence.....	8,606	7,878	6,317	Tiverton.....	Newport.....	3,894	4,032	2,977
Coventry.....	Kent.....	5,670	5,848	5,279	Warren.....	Bristol.....	7,841	6,585	5,108
Cumberland.....	Providence.....	10,077	10,107	8,925	Warwick.....	Kent.....	13,481	26,629	21,316
East Greenwich.....	Kent.....	3,290	3,420	2,775	West Warwick ¹	Kent.....	15,461		
East Providence.....	Providence.....	21,793	15,808	12,138	Westerly.....	Washington.....	9,952	8,696	7,541

1 See county footnote, Table 2.

TABLE 4.—POPULATION OF WARDS OF CITIES: 1920.

WARD.	1920	WARD.	1920	WARD.	1920	WARD.	1920
Central Falls city.....	24,174	Newport city.....	30,255	Pawtucket city—Con.		Providence city—Con.	
Ward 1.....	4,526	Ward 1.....	3,406	Ward 5.....	10,124	Ward 8.....	25,845
Ward 2.....	6,085	Ward 2.....	10,345	Ward 6.....	8,844	Ward 9.....	29,414
Ward 3.....	3,196	Ward 3.....	5,960			Ward 10.....	24,209
Ward 4.....	6,438	Ward 4.....	5,242	Providence city.....	237,505		
Ward 5.....	3,920	Ward 5.....	5,302	Ward 1.....	20,071	Woonsocket city.....	43,496
Cranston city.....	29,407	Pawtucket city.....	64,248	Ward 2.....	23,038	Ward 1.....	9,123
Ward 1.....	6,568	Ward 1.....	11,114	Ward 3.....	20,477	Ward 2.....	9,010
Ward 2.....	7,809	Ward 2.....	11,625	Ward 4.....	18,010	Ward 3.....	4,094
Ward 3.....	7,425	Ward 3.....	11,873	Ward 5.....	21,962	Ward 4.....	7,651
Ward 4.....	7,605	Ward 4.....	10,668	Ward 6.....	25,811	Ward 5.....	12,712
				Ward 7.....	18,758		